

ELECTIONS IN ANDHRA STATE (INDIA)

- I. First elections ever to be held in newly-formed ^(21 1/2 MILLION POP.) (Oct '53) "linguistic" state start 11 Feb, will last 5 days (count for 5-10 days more). At issue ⁽⁼⁾ possible Indian Communist sweep at polls (would be first such state victory since Independence).
 - A. Communists historically strong in Andhra: actually controlled area in '48-'50.
 - B. Started vigorous election campaign 2 months ahead of Congress Party.
 1. Have some top movie stars as drawing-cards; imported 2,000 bicycles to help beat hustings. ✓
 - C. Alarmed Congress Party making desperate effort prevent Communist victory.
 1. Using strong-arm tactics; best organizer (S. K. Patil) sent to

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D. Election outcome actually uncertain:

will depend on extent Congress Party
willing practice illegalities.

II. Even if Congress Party unsuccessful in
rigging elections, National Government ex-
pected nullify Communist victory by return-
ing Andhra state to "President's Rule"
(i.e. direct Delhi Administration) on
grounds mismanagement, disorder.

A. "President's Rule" in force since '54,
when Congress-controlled government fell
in "no confidence" vote following
Delhi's veto of opposition repeal
Congress-sponsored local prohibition.

B. Expected Government move would be no
solution to Congress Party's and Indian
Government's basic problem of improving
popularity.

1. Return to "President's Rule" would
be open Congress Party admission of
its continuing lack of appeal to

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